

## ASEM Symposium Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Berlin 27 – 28 February 2012

### WRAP UP

According to the Chair's conclusions from the third Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3), the leaders encouraged the exchange of experience on how qualifications frameworks affect lifelong learning and assure broad stakeholder acceptance of new forms of lifelong learning, thereby especially underlining the idea of enhancing and supporting the development of qualifications frameworks. In this context, the Ministers welcomed Germany's offer to organize the next Vocational Education and Training Symposium with special regard to qualifications frameworks in early 2012.

Following this encouragement, about 60 experts from 22 ASEM member countries and various organisations dealing with vocational education met in Berlin from 27 – 28 February 2012 in order to exchange information on the respective state of development of National Qualifications Frameworks in ASEM member states. In different plenary sessions and workshops, examples of good practice in developing and implementing Regional and National Qualifications Frameworks were presented, commonalities and differences identified and further developments explored.

#### The participants:

**Bearing in mind** the initiatives proposed by the Symposium in the Qingdao Declaration, January 2011 (No. 1 – 6 Qingdao Declaration);

**Highlighting** that the development and implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks is a long-term and an on-going process;

**Underlining** the need for commitment of all stakeholders in the development and implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks. In this context, the involvement of social partners needs to be strengthened;

**Emphasising** that National Qualifications Frameworks play an important role in lifelong learning. They are tools to translate levels and qualifications between systems and subsystems, to enhance transparency and to support mobility. They support comparability through mutual trust, quality assurance and the use of learning outcomes. In this context the day-to-day use of framework terminology in education and at work should be promoted to create acceptance and shared understanding.

**Considering** the request of the Ministers for Education to provide the ASEMME4 with a systematic overview on existing qualifications frameworks models (No. 24 ASEMME3). A wide range of National Qualifications Frameworks is already documented through the 16 country study by the ILO, and through international inventories published at regular intervals by Cedefop (Working Papers on NQF development in Europe), ETF (Inventory of NQF developments) and UNESCO (upcoming) which will be made available through the Qualifications Platform of ETF. It is important that these initiatives are sustained and widened

**Underpinning** that the attractiveness of vocational education needs to be enhanced. A promotional campaign considering success stories of mobile vocational education graduates would help making vocational education more attractive in the ASEM region;

**Stressing** the importance of trade sectors reflexions including about Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks. In this context it seemed recommendable to bring together stakeholders from Europe and Asia from the same sector to exchange experience and to learn from each other; this could improve comparability of content and use of qualifications between those actors developing qualifications in a specific sector (such as tourism) and the final users (labour market, companies and professionals;

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*Welcoming the regularity in which ASEM seminars take place and deal with topics related to Lifelong Learning; in this context, the offer of Vietnam to host the next conference on qualifications frameworks with special regard to developing mechanisms to recognise informal and non-formal learning by frameworks, as well as to transitions between vocational education and higher education, was highly appreciated;*

The ASEM Education Secretariat will forward the recommendations to the respective Senior Officials in the Ministries for Education in order to feed them into the next Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education which will take place in Malaysia 2013.